

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /063 W
-----081809 181701Z /43

R 181148Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5146
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
RUQMTIXAMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 850
SECDEF DSAA/ISA
USCINCEUR ECJ4/7

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2794

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: MEETING OF SURVEY TEAM WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI

1. AFTER BRIEF MEETING WITH MINDEF THIS MORNING, AUGUST 18, WE PROCEEDED TO PALACE WHERE WE WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. ENTIRE SURVEY TEAM WAS PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT AFTER WHICH THEY WITHDREW TO ADJOINING ROOM, AND U.S. SIDE CONSISTED OF MYSELF, GENERAL JAGGERS AND LT. COLONEL RHYNE, USAF. SUDAN MINDEF AND ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF ALSO PRESENT, BUT THEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATION.

2. AFTER MY EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY AND COOPERATION WHICH SUDAN ARMED FORCES HAD EXTENDED TO TEAM, GENERAL JAGGERS MADE A GENERAL PRESENTATION, STRESSING ITS TENTATIVE NATURE, IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED SUDANGOV'S PERCEPTION OF THE THREAT AND POSSIBLE PRIORITIES REGARDING EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVED PROCEDURES TO MEET THAT THREAT. GENERAL JAGGERS POINTED OUT THAT FINAL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN TEAM AND SUDAN GENERAL STAFF HAD NOT YET
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TAKEN PLACE AND THAT SURVEY TEAM REPORT WOULD BE REVIEWED BY U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE BEFORE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO SUDANGOV.

3. IN HIS COMMENTS IN REPLY, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
A) THE THREAT. HE NOTED THAT GENERAL JAGGERS HAD ALLUDED

TO THREAT POSED TO SUDAN BY SOME OF ITS NEIGHBORS WHO WERE LESS THAN FRIENDLY. NIMEIRI SAID HE FELT THAT THE ULTIMATE THREAT THAT LAY BEHIND THESE NEIGHBORS WAS THE USSR AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

B) MOBILITY. PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT SUDAN HAD NO PLANS TO INCREASE ITS ARMED FORCES OVER THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS. THEREFORE, GIVEN THE VASTNESS OF SUDANESE TERRITORY, HE HOPED TEAM, IN WRITING ITS REPORT, WOULD BEAR IN MIND NEED FOR GREATEST POSSIBLE MOBILITY FOR SUDANESE FORCES. HE ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY OF PRE-POSITIONING MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT IN REMOTE BUT STRATEGIC AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

C) ABILITY TO RECEIVE FRIENDLY FORCES. SUDANGOV ALSO HAD TO CONSIDER THAT A SITUATION MIGHT ARISE WHERE IT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CALL UPON FRIENDLY MILITARY FORCES (HE GAVE EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AS EXAMPLES) FOR ASSISTANCE. SUDANGOV NEEDED SOME CAPABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO RECEIVE SUCH FORCES IN THE COUNTRY, AND SEE THAT THEY WERE MOVED TO PROPER POSITIONS.

D) ABILITY TO ASSIST FRIENDLY FORCES. NIMEIRI SAID THAT AT SOME POINT SUDAN MIGHT WELL BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ONE OF ITS FRIENDS IN THE AREA. THIS TOO WAS A CAPABILITY WHICH SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED IN PLANNING. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER WHICH LAY CONSIDERABLY FAR IN THE FUTURE.

E) GUERRILLA WAR. PRESIDENT REVERTED TO HIS EARLIER CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT THAT ULTIMATE THREAT TO SUDAN WAS USSR. HE SAID HE BELIEVED SOVIETS HAD NOW LEARNED THAT THEY COULD NOT TAKE SUDAN BY SUBVERSION OR INTERNAL REVOLT. THEREFORE HE FELT THAT THEY WOULD TRY TWO OTHER METHODS: (1) STIMULATING LOCAL WARS BETWEEN SUDAN AND ITS NEIGHBORS; OR (2) STIMULATING AND SUPPORTING GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST SUDAN. PRESIDENT REFERRED TO FACT THAT ALONG SEVERAL OF SUDAN'S BORDERS THERE WERE TRIBES SCATTERED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER WHO MIGHT WELL BE USED TO CARRY ON GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST SUDAN. HE THEREFORE FELT HIS ARMED FORCES MUST HAVE SOME CAPABILITY TO FIGHT GUERRILLAS.

F) DETERRENTS. ALLUDING GENERALLY TO THE PROBLEM OF AIR DEFENSE OF SUDAN'S VITAL CENTERS (E.G., KHARTOUM AND PORT SUDAN), PRESIDENT FELT THAT SUDAN, IN ADDITION TO ON-THE-SPOT DEFENSE CAPABILITIES NEEDED A MODEST CAPACITY TO DETER ATTACK FROM UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBORS.

G) PRIORITY. PRESIDENT INDICATED AWARENESS OF, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR, USG POLICY DECISION ATTACHING HIGH PRIORITY TO STRENGTHENING OF U.S.- SUDAN RELATIONS.

4. WILL COMMENT ON FOREGOING AFTER TEAM HAS ITS FINAL MEETING WITH SUDANESE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS, SURVEYS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO02794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770298-0607
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 117
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1567441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF SURVEY TEAM WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI
TAGS: MASS, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f7a11759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009